

(Symphony No. 5 of Dimitri Shostakovich, p. 2)

and Shostakovich was not destroyed by the partially-educated and the imperfectly-educated and on November 21, 1937 Symphony No. 5 was presented to the world in conjunction with festivities commemorating the twentieth anniversary of the Soviet Republic and the critics were ecstatic. And Shostakovich survived and on February 10, 1948 the Central Committee published a resolution in which Prokofiev and Shostakovich and Khachaturian and others were accused of being formalists and of espousing "antidemocratic tendencies that are alien to the Soviet people and its artistic tastes" and furthermore their music was "strongly reminiscent of the spirit of contemporary modernistic bourgeois music of Europe and America." Academic salons and political salons and modern art salons and "Do you know what lies at the bottom of the mainstream? . . . mediocrity." Political codes and social codes both to a greater or lesser degree encourage the production of propaganda and the Central Committee and the non-critical modern-art-enthusiasts both wave flags in the name of form. The former reject "modern form" and the latter reject "non-modern form" and both stances are self-annihilating because their inevitable consequence is formlessness. Form and the creation of form is a result of the dialectic between works in existence and works in progress and this is one of the reasons why repetition is necessary in all aesthetic form. Repetition and what is the nature of the repetition when symphonic music is used and the word must be taken in this instance both literally and figuratively as ballet music. Sibelius and the music of Sibelius is used in the ballet in one act and two scenes The Lady of Shalott and examples of symphonic music being used as ballet music could be multiplied at will. Symphonic music used as ballet music and Sibelius has been raped. Symphonic music used as ballet music and Sibelius' tomb has been violated by thieves. Symphonic music and ballet music and when the composer collaborates with the choreographer it is an entirely different question because the music is not used. Education and enlightenment and the partially-educated and the imperfectly-educated and "Anything is what it is" said G.S.

(Whitney Museum: 11-12-75)